

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 15 July 2009 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours at Club Hood, Fort Hood, Texas.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

LTG (Ret) Palmer, Chairman
MG (Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Portmann, Member
COL (Ret) Gauer, Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Member
CSM (Ret) Kitterman, Member
Msgt (Ret) Wood, Member
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member

CSM (Ret) Minosky, Co-Chairman
COL (Ret) Somera, Member
COL (Ret) Oliver Jr., Assoc. Member
LTC (Ret) Woodward, Member
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Member
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member
SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Member

b. Members Absent:

1SG (Ret) Fisher, Member
Mrs. Greathouse, (Widow) Member

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed the council members to the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced guests LTG Rick Lynch, III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General and Bill Hill, Garrison Commander.

4. The topics of discussion for this meeting are listed below:

- LTG Lynch spoke to the Council and gave an overview of his three volunteer initiatives that could use the Retiree Council support: Resilience Campus/Mentorship, Gold Star Families, and Education Taskforce (Math Tutor Program) (see attached summary dated, 15 July 2009).
- LTG (Ret) Palmer presented the Retiree Council Constitution, Bylaws, and Charter and LTG Lynch, LTG (Ret) Palmer and CSM (Ret) Minosky signed all documents.
- LTG Lynch took questions from the Council Members and there was further discussion (see attached summary dated, 15 July 2009).
- Second order of business: CSM (Ret) Minosky briefed the Council on his recent visit to Washington D.C. as he represented the Central Texas' retiree community at the CSA Retiree Council. He stated that the Army Chief of Staff recognized Fort Hood for having the best Retirement Services Staff, as well as the best retiree program in the Army. CSM (Ret) Minosky also briefed on the #1 issue being discussed at the national level, that is: the current retiree health care system. Additionally, he elaborated on what the retiree community can focus on (cost of living increases) when dealing with this sensitive issue, and encouraged the Council to be realistic about the expectations of the health care cost to remain viable and maintain their credibility.

Fort Hood Retiree Council Minutes, 9 April 2009 (cont'd)


- Council Committee Updates.

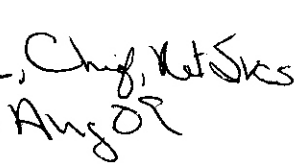
- Special Issues Update. LTC (Ret) Woodward provided a letter from the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce to the Retiree Council Members for approval to solicit donations for the Retiree Volunteer Day Event.
- Commissary Council Update. CW3 (Ret) Hanger briefed on the commissary Spaghetti Dinner Event to be sponsored by the Clear Creek Commissary on the Retiree Appreciation Day. He also had comments related to the Firestone tire store on post, and the current status of the Commissary Council (see attached summary dated, 15 July 2009).
- The RSO provided information on the VET Mobile Center open house to be held on Friday and Saturday during the Retiree Appreciation day at the Copeland Center, bldg 18010.

- LTG (Ret) Palmer opened the floor for additional topics of discussion.

- LTG Lynch asked the RSO to come see him and show him the final plans for the Retiree Appreciation Day for this year, along with last year's AAR.
- LTG Lynch also wanted to know how the Club is meeting or not meeting the needs of the Retirees, and come up with suggestions on how to improve it. He stated that he was concerned about people not getting the information (see attached summary dated, 15 July 2009).

5. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hrs. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 8 October 2009, location: Club Hood (T).


LTG (Ret) DAVE PALMER
Co-Chairman


Chief, Ret Sks
6 Aug 09

Approved/Disapproved

JOSEPH P. DISALVO
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
RETIREE COUNCIL LUNCHEON
15 1200-1300 JULY 09
CLUB HOOD**

****NOTE: THE PURPOSE OF THESE NOTES IS TO PROVIDE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING TO SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS AND STAFF WITHIN III CORPS AND FORT HOOD. THEY DO NOT, BY THEMSELVES, DICTATE OFFICIAL POLICY OR DECISIONS. OFFICIAL DECISIONS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA COMMANDER TO COMMANDER, ORDERS AND FRAGOS AND/OR WRITTEN POLICY.**

LEADERS:

- Commanding General III Corps and Fort Hood, LTG Rick Lynch
- Garrison Commander, COL Bill Hill
- Head of Retiree Services, Ms. Beth Waller
- Retiree Council Members (19)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *CG Comments:*
 - I try to lead by example in everything we do, to include having fun. I am convinced that we as an Army have forgotten how to have fun and as a result all of our bad numbers are up. So, I went to Hawaii last week with my Family and didn't do email or make phone calls. Of course, when I got back it was all waiting on me. So, I apologize for being a few minutes late. I also apologize that a year into my command, this is the first time we've done this. I know that things are going well and I know that you know you can tell me if you have problems. Here are a few things that I'd like to share.
 - I change command with MG(P) Bob Cone on 16 September. He's replaced me 4 times and we have this transition process down pat. I can personally guarantee that all the great things that have been happening on the Great Place will continue to happen. My new job is a daunting and challenging one – I have command of 106 different installations. The challenge that the Chief has given me is to do what we've done at Fort Hood 105 more times – that's why I need to take CSM Ciotola with me. I accept all the accolades, but it isn't about me – everyone at the Great Place has done it.
 - God Bless you all – you are givers in life. You all served your country to the point of retirement and you continue to work on this council. I appreciate your support.
 - So here are the things that I need help with.
 - The idea of mentorship. If you have not been to the Newcomer's Brief at 1500 on Wednesday, I think you're making a mistake. Tell your friends. Today we'll welcome 447 new Soldiers and I get a chance to welcome them and let them know what they can expect from the Great Place. I always ask the Soldiers what I can do to help. Just this morning I got an email from a young Private's wife telling me how much she loved me because of the advice I gave them when I talked to them at the NCB. Fort Hood is huge – it intimidates everybody. This is a great opportunity to help out new Soldiers.
 - Soldiers who return from deployment or are deploying could also use mentorship.
 - We've created a place where that mentorship can happen: the Resiliency Campus. We're the only installation that has dedicated an entire block to Resiliency. Over time, we find that Soldiers want to talk to people who have shared experiences and this – specifically the Spiritual Fitness Center - gives them an opportunity to do so. The Campus would be a perfect place for you to mentor and I would truly appreciate it.
 - The second thing that I need some help with is Gold Star Families. In the vicinity of Fort Hood, we have 882 Gold Star Families. From 12-16 August, we've invited them back to Fort Hood and are hosting a symposium. We're expanding the current Gold Star Center into the adjacent building because we have SOS and TAPS there as well. So, conceivably, 882 Gold Star Families will come to Fort Hood in August. What concerns

me is that the Families think that we've forgotten them. That ought to worry everyone because the Families don't forget.

- So the third thing that I need help with is the Education Task Force. We're struggling with the community and schools – Killeen, Belton, and all the ISDs. So I've directed that every school will be adopted. Next year, we're tackling math. We've identified Soldiers to act as math tutors for youngsters in the school. That's something you can help with as well.
- A lot of you don't realize, or don't take credit, for the fact that people are honored to be in your presence. You helped to provide the freedoms that we enjoy today. It would be so powerful for the new Soldiers to have the experience of meeting you.
- When I talked to the Youth Summit, they told me that they needed someone to talk to about their problems. No wonder we have a problem as a Society. That's another opportunity to provide mentorship. When I had problems growing up, I talked to my parents or grand-parents and a lot of kids today don't have that.
- Three days after I took command, GEN Casey told me to take a few months and develop a vision. In front of you is the updated version of our Campaign Plan. So I thought you'd be informed if you had a chance to review the Campaign Plan and then if you have questions or ideas, please give me a call.
- One of the things that I continue to deal with is the force levels on Fort Hood. It's going to draw down to about 46,000 over the next four years and that has an impact on the community. We're working very hard to mitigate that. At 1630 today, we farewell the 4th Infantry Division. There's still 3,000 Soldiers who were in the 4th ID who aren't moving to Fort Carson. That will dwindle over the next 90 days. We've mitigated the loss of the two-star HQ by bringing in 1st Army Division West (another two star command). But we've still got a delta of about 3,000. So what I'm trying to do is to get AAFES HQ to move into the old hospital once our new Medical Facility is built. The empty hospital will be a perfect place for the AAFES HQ – which would come with a two star general and 3600 civilian employees and their Families.
- The last thing is I'd like to hear from you if we truly are making the Great Place Greater. That's our goal. We're here to serve. You all know that. I take responsibility very seriously and if there is something we're missing, I'd appreciate if you will tell me.

• Question and Answer Session

- Do you have or can you get the POCs for the three areas you said you need help on? The Gold Star Families, the Resiliency and the Education Task Force?
 - *CG Comment:* Each has an O-6 in charge. If you want to help with the Gold Star Families it is COL Hill (Garrison Commander), if you want to link into the Resiliency Campus it is COL Bill Rabena (Resiliency Campus Mayor), and the Education Task Force and Math tutoring is COL(P) John Rossi (DCG Fires).
- What are the restrictions are driving on post without a decal or an ID? It is part of the day, but why isn't it 24 hours?
 - *CG Comment:* I tried to open the post back up to the community, but I was not willing to take the risk of opening it for 24 hours a day. The specific window we chose was because it is when the Club is active. However, if you have a military ID card, you should be able to come on 24 hours a day. If that is not happening, then thank you for telling me. If there is an occupant in the vehicle – whether it has a decal or not – who has a military ID card then the vehicle should be able to get on post. I apologize if that happened.
 - I called your office and talked to a SPC and they said they would call back, but they didn't.
 - *CG Comment:* Here is my business card with my personal cell phone number. Don't call my outer office, call me.
 - CSM (Ret): Use the ICE system – it's great.
 - *CG Comment:* I appreciate that – it's an important system. COL Hill has 72 hours to address every ICE comment. I read every comment every Friday.
- Why do we spend the money on a DOD Decal if you need to show an ID card anyway?

- *CG Comment:* I think we'll gravitate away from it at time. If you want to facilitate access, the best thing to do is get a sticker. However, if you don't have a decal but you do have an ID then you should be able to get on post.
- When I have people visit me, and we ride around on Post and they point out all the dead trees. A few years I point this out, and they cut the trees down and left the stumps. Why can't the Engineer units get rid of those stumps?
 - COL Hill: We spent close to a million dollars last year to maintain the trees. We are actually re-writing our maintenance contract to address tree-trimming and tree removal. We've got a plan to implement.
 - *CG Comment:* That's a great point. We can task our subordinate units. I was an engineer, and I had a chainsaw and knew how to operate it. My wife gives me a hard time every day about dead trees, so I call COL Hill.
- Somebody needs to look into the Firestone Tire place by the PX. Not only do they charge sales tax on Post, but they also do poor work.
 - *CG Comment:* I wasn't aware of that.
- Few people show up for the Commissary Council – back in the early 1990s, LTG Taylor's wife used to be on it and it was excellent.
 - *CG Comment:* When is the next Commissary Council meeting? If you can find out, Sarah and I will be there.
 - *CG Comment:* On all of these Commissary comments, if you could inform the retirees to use the ICE system in the Commissary, we will make sure they are addressed within 72 hours.
- Sir, what will the Corps be in five years? Right now we're a mobile Armored Corps?
 - *CG Comment:* We'll still be the same. We just had this conversation with the Chief of Staff of the Army yesterday. It is a non-negotiable that the Army retain four Corps HQs, and III Corps will remain the Armored Corps.
- *CG Closing Comments:*
 - Asked Mrs. Waller to come see him and show plans for the Retiree Appreciation Day for this year along with last year's AAR.
 - I'm not sure the Clubs are meeting the needs of the retirees. If I can get feedback from the Retiree Council on how the Club system is doing and how to improve it, that would be fantastic. I don't know what I'm missing.
 - The number one problem we have at Fort Hood is communication. If no one knows about our programs, we're just wasting time. So we've got newspapers, various social media (Facebook, Twitter), a TV channel and are soon to have a radio channel. So, for example, how many people know about the Soldier Show next week?
 - Protocol sent the Retiree Council invitations. There is a weekly update that goes out to the retirees.
 - Suggestion to send a link to the MWR site so that various civilian agencies / societies can post it.
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REVIEWED / RELEASED BY: COL Dan Garcia, DCoS

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